

Firearm Accidents

1993

Hunting and Non-Hunting

1993

Hunter and Firearm Safety Program

Manitoba
Natural Resources



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Department of Natural Resources acknowledges the assistance provided by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and Municipal Police Forces who provided information for this Firearm Accident Report. It is through these organizations that detailed information on each firearm accident was obtained.

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Royal Canadian Mounted Police and Municipal Police Forces requiring additional accident report forms please write to the Coordinator, Hunter and Firearm Safety Program, Box 44, 1495 St. James St., Winnipeg, Manitoba, R3H 0W9, or phone 945-6644.

SUMMARY

During 1993 there were 13 firearm related accidents compared to 21 in 1992. Eight of these accidents were self-inflicted. There were no hunting related fatal accidents. Five of these accidents involved shooters under 18 years of age, down four from last year.

Eight of the thirteen reported accidents were not directly related to hunting. Of the five remaining accidents, two involved shooters hunting big game in regular season, two by treaty Indians and one by shooters hunting upland game.

All thirteen reported accidents occurred at a distance of less than ten yards. There was one firearm accident that occurred due to having a loaded firearm in a vehicle. Three of the thirteen accidents involved a graduate of the Hunter Safety Program.

The Manitoba Hunter Safety Course was completed by 2685 students in 1993. Some 119,566 students have now graduated from the program since it began in 1964. Of this total, only 144 have later become involved in accidents.

CAUSE OF ACCIDENTS

	<u>1992</u>	<u>1993</u>
<u>Victim out of sight of shooter.</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>0</u>
<u>Victim moved into line of fire.</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
<u>Victim covered by shooter swinging on game.</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>
<u>Victim mistaken for game.</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>
<u>Shooter stumbled and fell.</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>
<u>Using firearm as club.</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
<u>Trigger caught on bush or other object.</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>
<u>Loaded firearm in vehicle.</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1</u>
<u>Firearm fell from insecure rest.</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
<u>"Horseplay" and/or "didn't know it was loaded".</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>4</u>
<u>Crossing fence or other obstacle with loaded firearm.</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
<u>Loading.</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>
<u>Unloading.</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1</u>
<u>Defective firearm</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>0</u>
<u>Cleaning firearm</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
<u>Loaded firearm in the home.</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
<u>Accidental discharge.</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1</u>
<u>Ricochet.</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>
<u>Other</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>

Total

21

13

Average firearm accidents per year in 5 year increments since Hunter Safety Program commenced.

1964-1968	44.2
1969-1973	56.0
1974-1978	53.6
1979-1983	42.8
1984-1988	26.4
1989-1993	20.4

SYNOPSIS OF 1993 FIREARM ACCIDENTS

	<u>1992</u>	<u>1993</u>
A. Total Number of Accidents	21	13
Fatal	1	0
Non-fatal	20	13
B. 1) Hunting Legally During Regular Season	6	3
Fatal	0	0
Non-fatal	6	3
2) Treaty Indian Hunting	8	2
Fatal	0	0
Non-fatal	8	2
3) Hunting Small Animals, Birds, or Illegal Hunting	0	0
Fatal	0	0
Non-fatal	0	0
4) Non-hunting Accidents	7	8
Fatal in the home	0	0
Fatal in a vehicle	0	0
Fatal outside home	0	0
Non-fatal in the home	4	3
Non-fatal in a vehicle	0	1
Non-fatal outside the home	3	4
C. Shooter Unknown	1	0
Fatal	0	0
Non-fatal	1	0
D. Accidents Involving Shooter under 18 years of age	9	5
All Types of Hunting	4	2
Fatal	0	0
Non-fatal	4	2
Non-hunting	5	3
Fatal	0	0
Non-fatal	5	3

TYPE OF FIREARM INVOLVED

	<u>1992</u>	<u>1993</u>
A. .22 calibre Rim Fire Rifle	5	4
Fatal	0	0
Non-fatal	5	4
B. Centre Fire Hi Power Rifle	5	3
Fatal	1	0
Non-fatal	4	3
C. Shotgun	8	3
Fatal	0	0
Non-fatal	8	3
D. Hand Gun	0	1
Fatal	0	0
Non-fatal	0	1
E. Pellet Gun	3	1
Fatal	0	0
Non-fatal	3	1
F. Unknown/Other Muzzle Loader	0	1
Fatal	0	0
Non-fatal	0	1
Total	21	13

DISTANCE OF VICTIM FROM SHOOTER

	<u>1992</u>	<u>1993</u>
0 to 10 yards	11	13
10 to 50 yards	4	0
50 to 100 yards	0	0
over 100 yards	3	0
Distance Unknown	3	0

OCCURRENCES

<u>Time of Day</u>	<u>1992</u>	<u>1993</u>
Midnight - 3:00 a.m.	0	0
3:00 a.m. - 6:00 a.m.	0	1
6:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.	2	1
9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon	4*	2
12:00 noon - 3:00 p.m.	2	1
3:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.	4	5
6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.	5	3
9:00 p.m. - 12:00 midnight	4	0
Unknown	0	0

By Day

Sunday	1	2
Monday	2	0
Tuesday	2	3
Wednesday	4	1
Thursday	3	1
Friday	4*	1
Saturday	5	5

By Month

January	1	0
February	0	0
March	2	1
April	0	1
May	3	3
June	1	0
July	0	1
August	2	0
September	6*	1
October	1	4
November	4	1
December	1	1

* Indicates one fatal

SUMMARY OF 1993 ACCIDENTS

The following summary of accidents related to the use of firearms serves as a useful lesson for everyone who enjoys shooting sports. Hunter Safety Instructors and their students should make a special effort to study each incident and analyze how the accident occurred. In most cases, one or more of the 10 commandments of Hunter Safety were violated. Don't let you or your friends be the cause of an accident recorded in next year's report.

THE 10 COMMANDMENTS OF HUNTER SAFETY

1. **WATCH THAT MUZZLE!** Carry your gun safely; keep safety on until ready to shoot.
2. **TREAT EVERY GUN WITH THE RESPECT DUE A LOADED GUN.**
3. **UNLOAD GUNS WHEN NOT IN USE,** take down or have actions open; guns should be carried in cases to shooting area.
4. **BE SURE BARREL IS CLEAR OF OBSTRUCTIONS,** and that you have ammunition only of the proper size for the gun you carry.
5. **BE SURE OF TARGET BEFORE YOU PULL TRIGGER;** know identifying features of game you hunt.
6. **NEVER POINT A GUN AT ANYTHING YOU DO NOT WANT TO SHOOT;** avoid all horseplay.
7. **NEVER CLIMB A TREE OR FENCE OR JUMP A DITCH WITH A LOADED GUN;** never pull a gun toward you by the muzzle.
8. **NEVER SHOOT A BULLET AT A FLAT, HARD SURFACE OR WATER;** at target practice be sure your backstop is adequate.
9. **STORE GUNS AND AMMUNITION SEPARATELY,** beyond reach of children.
10. **AVOID ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES** before or during shooting.

DATE & TIME	AGE OF SHOOTER AGE OF VICTIM	FATAL	TYPE OF FIREARM	MUZZLE DISTANCE	GAME HUNTED	SHOOTER WAS A HUNTER SAFETY GRADUATE	CIRCUMSTANCES
Sunday March 21 5:30 pm	S - 14 Self Inflicted	No	22 cal. rifle	0 - 10 yds	Non- hunting	Yes	Shooter out with a friend. Shot into interior of derelict vehicle. Bullet ricocheted back into eye. Very possible will lose sight in eye.
Saturday April 17 11:30 am	S - 20 Self Inflicted	No	22 cal. rifle	0 - 10 yds	Non - hunting	No	Rifle was loaded in house when shooter picked it up, one hand accidentally pulled trigger causing wound to other hand at end of barrel.
Saturday May 1 6:30 pm	S - 14 Self Inflicted	No	4 - 10 Shotgun	0 - 10 yds	Grouse	No	Shooter carrying gun in left hand with barrel resting on foot, discharged causing injury to left foot.
Sunday May 9 3:35 am	S - 44 Self Inflicted	No	303 cal. rifle	0 - 10 yds	Non - hunting	No	Shooter and victim went to check on prowlers. During a scuffle, shooter fell discharging rifle, bullet glanced off truck door and through victim's upper right leg.

DATE & TIME	AGE OF SHOOTER AGE OF VICTIM	FATAL	TYPE OF FIREARM	MUZZLE DISTANCE	GAME HUNTED	SHOOTER WAS A HUNTER SAFETY GRADUATE	CIRCUMSTANCES
Friday May 14 8:00 pm	S - 12 U - 7	No	12 Gauge Shotgun	0 - 10 yds	Non- hunting	No	Gun insecurely stored, was loaded by a 7 year old boy who was playing with it. Babysitter took it away and inadvertently pulled trigger with the shot grazing the wrist of another child.
Saturday July 17 11:40 am	S - 23 Self Inflicted	No	45 cal. pistol	0 - 10 yds	Non- hunting	Yes	While holstering a loaded pistol at a range, accidentally discharged, striking shooter in left thigh with bullet carrying down leg to ankle area.
Saturday September 25 4:00 pm	S - 19 Self Inflicted	No	30.30 cal. rifle	0 - 10 yds	Non- hunting	No	Shooter accidentally dropped firearm outside his home. It discharged causing a flesh wound to left side of abdomen.
Thursday October 14 3:30 pm	S - 20 Self Inflicted	No	22 cal. rifle	0 - 10 yds	Grouse	No	Shooter tripped going through dense bush, resulting in accidental discharge and wound to right upper leg.
Wednesday October 20 5:30 pm	S - 13 V - 12	No	22 cal. rifle	0 - 10 yds	Waterfowl	No	Shooter swung on game and accidentally discharged hitting victim in left leg.

DATE & TIME	AGE OF SHOOTER AGE OF VICTIM	FATAL	TYPE OF FIREARM	MUZZLE DISTANCE	GAME HUNTED	SHOOTER WAS A HUNTER SAFETY GRADUATE	CIRCUMSTANCES
Saturday October 23 6:45 pm	S - 39	No	50 cal. Muzzle Loader	0 - 10 yds	Deer	Unknown	Shooter attempted to disassemble firearm to place in vehicle. He failed to remove percussion cap and while removing barrel from stock caught trigger causing discharge and injury to lower right forearm.
Tuesday October 26 5:20 pm	S - 11 V - 11	No	Pellet Gun	0 - 10 yds	Non - hunting	No	Shooter playing with gun indoors. Victim in bathroom. Shooter discharged weapon at bathroom door with pellet going through door and striking victim in right cheek.
Tuesday November 16 7:30 am	S - 45	No	300 cal. rifle	0 - 10 yds	Deer	Yes	Trigger caught on Bush. Firearm discharged resulting in loss of big toe on left foot.
Tuesday December 28 3:30 pm	S - 31 V - 40	No	Shotgun	0 - 10 yds	Non- hunting	No	Shooter put a shell in weapon to see if it was still jamming. While trying to empty chamber, pulled trigger instead of pump release, discharging firearm through front windshield and through the victims kitchen window striking him in the shoulder.



CAUSE OF ACCIDENTS

	<u>1993</u>	<u>1994</u>
Victim out of sight of shooter.	0	1
Victim moved into line of fire.	0	0
Victim covered by shooter swinging on game.	1	0
Victim mistaken for game.	0	1
Shooter stumbled and fell.	2	1
Using firearm as club.	0	0
Trigger caught on bush or other object.	1	0
Loaded firearm in vehicle.	1	0
Firearm fell from insecure rest.	0	0
"Horseplay" and/or "didn't know it was loaded".	4	3
Crossing fence or other obstacle with loaded firearm.	0	0
Loading.	0	0
Unloading.	1	0
Defective firearm	0	0
Cleaning firearm	0	1
Loaded firearm in the home.	0	0
Accidental discharge.	1	1
Ricochet.	1	1
Other	1	0

Total

13

9

Average firearm accidents per year in 5 year increments since Hunter Safety Program commenced

1964-1968	44.2
1969-1973	56.0
1974-1978	53.6
1979-1983	42.8
1984-1988	26.4
1989-1993	20.4
1994	9.0

OCCURRENCES

<u>Time of Day</u>	<u>1993</u>	<u>1994</u>
Midnight - 3:00 a.m.	0	0
3:00 a.m. - 6:00 a.m.	1	0
6:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.	1	0
9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon	2	1*
12:00 noon - 3:00 p.m.	1	0
3:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.	5	7*
6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.	3	1
9:00 p.m. - 12:00 midnight	0	0
Unknown	0	0

<u>By Day</u>		
Sunday	2	1
Monday	0	2*
Tuesday	3	0
Wednesday	1	1
Thursday	1	1
Friday	1	1
Saturday	5	3*

<u>By Month</u>		
January	0	0
February	0	0
March	1	0
April	1	1
May	3	1
June	0	1
July	1	0
August	0	0
September	1	0
October	4	5*
November	1	1
December	1	0

* Indicates one or more fatal

SYNOPSIS OF 1993 AND 1994 FIREARM ACCIDENTS

	<u>1993</u>	<u>1994</u>
A. Total Number of Accidents	13	9
Fatal	0	2
Non-fatal	13	7
B. 1) Hunting Legally During Regular Season	3	2
Fatal	0	0
Non-fatal	3	2
2) Treaty Indian Hunting	2	1
Fatal	0	1
Non-fatal	2	0
3) Hunting Small Animals, Birds, or Illegal Hunting	0	1
Fatal	0	0
Non-fatal	0	1
4) Non-hunting Accidents	8	5
Fatal in the home	0	0
Fatal in a vehicle	0	0
Fatal outside home	0	1
Non-fatal in the home	3	1
Non-fatal in a vehicle	1	0
Non-fatal outside the home	4	3
C. Shooter Unknown	0	0
Fatal	0	0
Non-fatal	0	0
D. Accidents Involving Shooter under 18 years of age	5	5
All Types of Hunting	2	2
Fatal	0	1
Non-fatal	2	1
Non-hunting	3	3
Fatal	0	1
Non-fatal	3	2

TYPE OF FIREARM INVOLVED

	<u>1993</u>	<u>1994</u>
A. .22 calibre Rim Fire Rifle	4	2
Fatal	0	0
Non-fatal	4	2
B. Centre Fire Hi Power Rifle	3	2
Fatal	0	0
Non-fatal	3	2
C. Shotgun	3	3
Fatal	0	2
Non-fatal	3	1
D. Hand Gun	1	1
Fatal	0	0
Non-fatal	1	1
E. Pellet Gun	1	0
Fatal	0	0
Non-fatal	1	0
F. Unknown/Other Muzzle Loader	1	1
Fatal	0	0
Non-fatal	1	1
Total	13	9

DISTANCE OF VICTIM FROM SHOOTER

	<u>1993</u>	<u>1994</u>
0 to 10 yards	13	6
10 to 50 yards	0	0
50 to 100 yards	0	1
over 100 yards	0	2
Distance Unknown	0	0

DATE & TIME	AGE OF SHOOTER AGE OF VICTIM	FATAL	TYPE OF FIREARM	MUZZLE DISTANCE	GAME HUNTED	SHOOTER WAS A HUNTER - SAFETY GRADUATE	CIRCUMSTANCES
Monday April 4 5:50 pm	S - 14 V - 13	No	22 cal. rifle	50-100 yds	Non-hunting	No	Target practicing - shooter shot at ice. ricochet struck victim in right leg.
Thursday May 12 3:30 pm	S - 15 V - 32	No	22 cal. handgun	0 - 10 yds	Non-hunting	No	While subjects were cleaning up vacant house, victim found pieces of handgun. Shooter picked up and it discharged striking victim in back.
Saturday June 25 5:00 pm	S - 25 Self Inflicted	No	22 cal. rifle	0 - 10 yds	Non-hunting	Yes	While cleaning firearm after target shooting. firearm discharged with minor wound to left hand.
Saturday October 1 3:30 pm	S - Unknown V - 8	Yes	12 gauge shotgun	0 - 10 yds	Waterfowl	No	Family out hunting - 2 sisters playing with sticks when trigger was bumped and gun discharged.

DATE & TIME	AGE OF SHOOTER AGE OF VICTIM	FATAL	TYPE OF FIREARM	MUZZLE DISTANCE	GAME HUNTED	SHOOTER WAS A HUNTER SAFETY GRADUATE	CIRCUMSTANCES
Sunday October 2 7:00 pm	S - 54 V - 50	No	30.06 caliber rifle	100 + yds.	Non- hunting	No	Shooter shot at stray dog chasing deer - never saw victim in shelter belt behind - wound caused by wood fibres to right hand.
Monday October 10 9:30 am	S - 15 V - 13	Yes	12 gauge single shotgun	0 - 10 yds	Non- hunting	No	5 youths camping and hunting at a cabin. Victim was inside cabin at window when shooter who meant to scare and shoot above his head. shot too low striking victim in face.
Wednesday October 12 5:45 pm	S - 13 V - 9	No	12 gauge shotgun (pump)	0 - 10 yds	Ducks	No	Shooter returning to his residence after hunting. thought gun was completely unloaded. Gun discharged striking victim in back, lung and spine.
Friday October 28 5:15 pm	S - 23 Self Inflicted	No	.50 cal. Muzzle- loader	0 - 10 yds	Deer	Yes	While hunting across a rock ridge, shooter fell. firearm dropped and discharged with injuries to left shoulder.
Saturday November 26 5:00 pm Note: Last day of general deer season	S - 27 V - 23	No	300 cal. magnum rifle	100 yds or more (400)	Deer	Yes	Shooter hunting deer mistook victim for game. Injuries to right elbow, side and exited lower back. Victim was apparently wearing an orange vest. It is not known if it was <u>hunter</u> orange.